

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF ARANSAS §
SAN PATRICIO AND NUECES §
CITY OF ARANSAS PASS §

On this the 16th day of January, 2014 the City Council of the City of Aransas Pass convened in a Regular Meeting being open to the Public at the regular meeting place thereof in the City Hall and notice of said meeting giving the time, place, date and subject hereof having been posted and prescribed by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code with the following attendance to wit constituting a quorum.

PRESENT:	Billy Ellis	Council Member
	Vickie Abrego	Council Member
	Ramiro Gomez	Council Member
	Phillip Hyatt	Mayor Pro Tempore

ABSENT:	Adan Chapa	Mayor
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ADMINISTRATIVE		
PERSONNEL PRESENT:	Sylvia Carrillo	City Manager
	Yvonne Stonebraker	City Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE		
PERSONNEL ABSENT:	Allen Lawrence	City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT:	Amanda Torres	Administrative Assistant
	Eric Blanchard	Chief of Police
	Donna Cox	Finance Director
	J.P. Gonzales	Head Meter Reader
	Cande Torres	Utility Supervisor
	Rick Kilgore	Fire Chief
	Earl Buckmaster	Harbormaster
	Paul Alvarado	Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT:	Everett Mahan, Greg Cox, Donald Brummett, Juan Perales Jr., Ross and Brenda McElwee, Tom Doran, Mike Moore, Rosemary Vega, Cari and Bart Fuller
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There may have been others present who did not sign in.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.**

Council member Abrego called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. on January 16, 2014.

2. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING FOR THE CITY OF ARANSAS PASS.**

City Manager Carrillo explained the results of the recent Community Survey distributed online and through various community venues. The City has plans to refinance \$7 million in current debt at no additional tax cost. Potential uses would be for General Fund expenditures such as street maintenance. For example, the City had acquired a zipper to repair the street but sold it to City of Ingleside. Now, the Public Works department must rent the zipper from the City of Ingleside.

The survey had ten questions. The first question asked responders to rank the following items in order of importance: Quality of Life (Parks, Libraries, Museums, Trails, etc.), Resident Services (Trash, Water, Sewer, etc.), Safety (Police, Fire, EMS, Building Codes, etc.), and Infrastructure (Streets, Sidewalks, Water & Sewer lines, Drainage, etc.). Public Safety ranked first for the majority of the respondents. The next question dealt with the areas of the City that needed the most attention, which included

Neighborhoods, Harbor, Downtown, Commercial Corridors, Community Park and Neighborhood Parks.

The most commonly mentioned streets in need of repair were Highland, Wheeler, Yoakum, Pompano and Avenue A. City Manager Carrillo explained that soil conditions were not conducive to underground drainage underneath streets. In regards to sewer, 85% of respondents would tap on. City Manager Carrillo stated that the City needed to come up with solutions. The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant needs infrastructure updates. Recently, \$100,000 was invested into the plant but that only funded minimal improvements. Contingency and alternate plans are needed.

Most respondents agreed that the Harbor was a good investment for the City, followed by infrastructure, parks and roads. The survey provided an open-ended question that read "Our City would be successful if..." Responses included gaining community pride, allowing progress and growth, and attracting business. Most respondents admitted that most were not informed or involved in City business.

City Manager Carrillo compared the street list requested in the survey to the staff proposed list. She stated that the lists didn't necessarily match, but that staff needed to plan what streets were priorities for overall growth. \$900,000 in street improvements was estimated.

Recently, City staff reached out to playground equipment contractors. City Manager Carrillo gave an example of a playground proposal from Rainbow Playgrounds but stated that a maintenance plan should be considered and included as the City replaced equipment.

Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt arrived at 6:55 P.M.

Other City updates would include purchasing new fire apparatus and updating the City's phone system and computing network at an estimate of around \$1,000,000. Infrastructure also would be included in the Capital Improvements Plan, such as repairing streets such as Highland Avenue and Yoakum Avenue. Among potential investments, City Manager Carrillo explained that City parks could potentially be outfitted with new equipment at a cost of \$125,000. In addition, fencing, lighting and field updates would be needed.

For water and sewer infrastructure, City Manager Carrillo explained that most of the City's sewer lines were directed to a main line on Deberry Avenue and that new lines should be built to relieve the amount of congestion on that line. She proposed putting a new sewer line on the North side of the City that would direct to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Updates to the Harbor would also be included in the Capital Improvements plan. Aesthetic improvements and street repairs would be among the repairs completed. The cost for updates at the Harbor would be around \$1 to 2 million. In addition, there are plans to place a community park on the current City Dock or near the Harbor docks. All items are topics for discussion with bond counsel. City staff expects to fund projects at the end of April.

Updates at Community Park would include replacing the swing set and repaving the parking lot. A walking trail would be connected to the current kayak launch and wildlife viewing areas, gazebos and seating areas would be incorporated. In addition, a skate park is proposed for the area. The City plans on partnering with corporations to purchase pieces of the park. Council member Abrego commented that the park looked rundown and it would a liability for children. The Community Park had a lot of visibility so it would be important to invest in. Building rehab and additional lighting would be needed.

Utility infrastructure was discussed again. City Manager Carrillo stated that the North side had capacity for growth but suffered from an image problem. Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt commented that investment in repairing Highland Avenue would open up the area for development. City Manager Carrillo also explained that major repairs would be necessary within the next 34-36 months.

In addition, an annexation plan was in the process of being completed. Among the first areas being considered was property along Highway 35 bypass. Additionally, properties in the vicinity of the high school were in consideration of annexation. A plan to provide water and sewer would need to be developed. City Manager Carrillo explained that the immediate need would be to go toward Ingleside.

For street repairs, around \$2 million would be needed just to repair Highland Avenue. Gravity mains could be built along the street and the City would need to begin easement and right-of-way acquisition. The street was important to overall growth of the City. Additionally, growth resulting from Port of Corpus Christi expansions needed to be considered. Recently, the Port Aransas City Council rejected a proposal for industry on Harbor Island. This could possibly an item that citizens of Aransas Pass would need to consider and more generally, decide whether tourism or industry would be what the City wanted to promote. Also, increased activity at the Port has resulted in an increase in barge traffic. Several barges have parked on the outskirts of the Harbor because the Port and subsequent channel have been full. Harbormaster Earl Buckmaster commented that the old docks in the inner Harbor needed to be torn down. Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt added that the docks should be completely removed not just cut down.

City Manager Carrillo discussed the Citizens' Collection Station. City staff was in the process of disposing of shingles at the site. Citizen Ross McElwee commented that the transfer station should be open five to six days a week. Typically, the station was tough to get into and sometimes rollofs would be full by the time a citizen could enter. The City was in the process of choosing a new solid waste provider who could offset costs at the station and assist with community clean up days but further education would be helpful in combating dumping problems in the City.

Citizen Everett Mahan asked City Manager Carrillo when the City planned on annexing Highland Avenue. City Manager Carrillo responded that the total annexation plan encompassed three years. Mr. Mahan was concerned about annexation and the cost of sewer capability. He stated that he paid county taxes and school taxes but was on a fixed income. City Manager Carrillo responded that the economic impact of annexation needed to be considered.

3. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Council Member Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Gomez seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Council member Abrego adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Adan Chapa, Mayor

Attest:

Yvonne Stonebraker, City Secretary